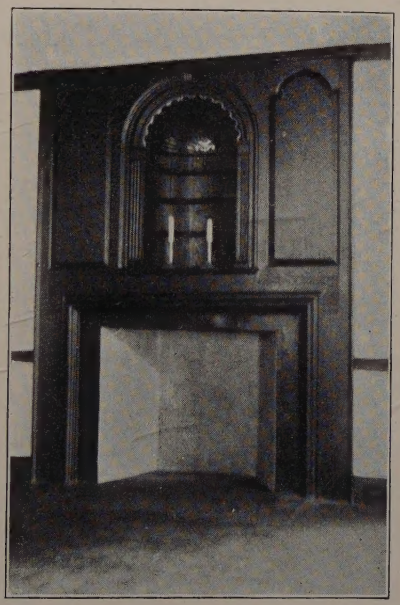
Rhode Island Historical Society Collections

Vol. XXIII April, 1930 No. 2



FIREPLACE AND OPEN CUPBOARD IN THE STEPHEN HOPKINS HOUSE, PROVIDENCE

See Page 55

Issued Quarterly

68 Waterman Street, Providence, Rhode Island

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RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS

Vol. XXIII April, 1930 No. 2

ADDISON P. MUNROE, *President* GILBERT A. HARRINGTON, *Treasurer*
HOWARD W. PRESTON, *Secretary* HOWARD M. CHAPIN, *Librarian*

The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or the opinions of contributors.

Early College Performances of Otway in Providence

By HAROLD KARL HALPERT

On May 27, 1782, Rhode Island College (now Brown University) reopened after having been closed since December 7, 1776. The entering class had grown up with the idea of liberty, not only in politics, but in the arts and sciences as well. The new books purchased for the college library were strikingly secular as compared with those that former students had used. The 700 pounds set aside for books in 1784 went for the works of such writers as Colley Cibber, William Congreve, and John Dryden.[1] Among the other books ordered from London at this time was the three-volume 1757 set of Otway's works.[2]

The eighteenth century placed Otway next to Shake-

[1]History of Brown University, Professor W. C. Bronson, p. 109.
[2]History of Brown University, Professor W. C. Bronson, p. 109.

speare; and already in this country, some of Otway's plays had been performed in pioneer dramatics. Clapp, in his *History of the Boston Stage*, writes of two young Englishmen, who in 1750, "assisted by some volunteer comrades from the town" performed the *Orphan* at a coffee-house in that city.[3] But Massachusetts, still a stronghold of Puritanism in 1750, frowned on the disturbance made by an eager audience, and immediately passed laws forbidding stage-plays.[4] Two years later, on February 20, 1752, Robert Upton, who had been sent to New York by William Hallam, then manager of Goodman's Fields Theatre, to make arrangements for the establishment of a playhouse in that city, gave a performance of Otway's *Venice Preserved* at the Nassau street theatre.[5]

Plays were performed in Providence as early as 1762 by Hallam's Virginia comedians, a company well reputed for its refinement as well as for its ability.[6] This English company started its theatrical activity at an "Histrionic Academy" on Meeting street, east of Benefit street, near the cadet gun-house.[7] In a petition sent to the General Assembly, August 23, 1762, some four hundred citizens objected, however, to the production of stage-plays;[8] and the very next day, a bill forbidding plays and playhouses was pushed through both houses of the assembly.[9] John Brown, the most prominent citizen of the town, signed an address begging permission for the actors to give their performances. Indeed, so zealous was he for the cause of the drama that, just before plays had been conclusively declared unlawful in Providence, he frustrated the impatient reformers, who threatened to mob a theatrical perform-

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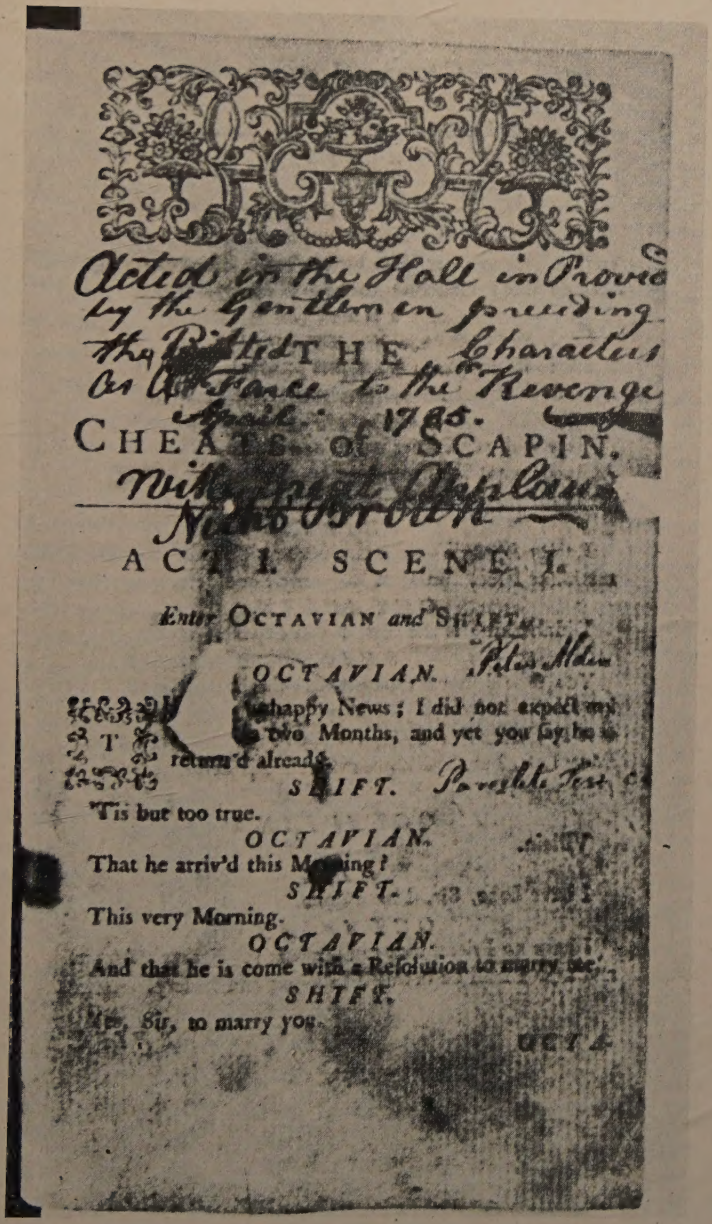
[3]Annals of the New York Stage, George C. D. Odell, p. 33.
[4]History of the Providence Stage, George O. Willard, p. 4.
[5]Odell, p. 44.
[6]Willard, p. 5.
[7]Willard, p. 12.
[8]Willard, p. 13.
[9]Providence in Colonial Times, Gertrude S. Kimball, p. 308.



Acted in the Hall in Provi
by the Gentlemen residing
the Pit. THE Characters
Or the Farce to the Revenge
April 1785.
CHEATS of SCAPIN.
With
ACT I. SCENE I.
Enter OCTAVIAN and SHIFT.
OCTAVIAN.
happy News; I did not expect my
two Months, and yet you say he
return'd already.
SHIFT.
'Tis but too true.
OCTAVIAN.
That he arriv'd this Morning?
SHIFT.
This very Morning.
OCTAVIAN.
And that he is come with a Resolution to marry me.
SHIFT.
Yes, Sir, to marry you.
OCTA

NICHOLAS BROWN'S RECORD OF THE APRIL, 1785, PERFORMANCE OF THE CHEATS OF SCAPIN

Page 253, Vol. I, *Works of Mr. Thomas Otway*, (London, 1757)
in the John Hay Library, Brown University

ance, by borrowing a cannon from the neighboring gunhouse for the protection of the theatre.[10] By October, 1774, however, Congress passed an act which definitely closed all the theatres in all the states.[11]

No theatrical performances are recorded for Providence from August, 1762, until late in December, 1792, when Joseph Harper's company performed at the Court House; and it has been assumed that there were none. To be sure, Professor Bronson points out that the college laws of 1783 emphasized public speaking and disputes; he tells us that there was a "Pronouncing Society", whose purpose was to improve the art of speaking, but that "athletic, musical and dramatic clubs were undreamed of, and indeed there would have been little leisure for them with the prescribed routine."[12] Prohibition, however, does not prevent bootlegging, even of drama; and it is to the credit of the students of Rhode Island College that they gave a performance of Young's *Revenge*, with Otway's *Cheats of Scapin* as an afterpiece, in April, 1785;[13] and repeated the farce in 1792 before Joseph Harper was allowed to perform in Providence.

The evidence for these performances is written in the 1757 edition of Otway, bought by the college in 1784, and still in the John Hay library. On page 253 of the first volume, written across the first page of the *Cheats of Scapin*, is the following inscription:

"Acted in the Hall in Provid [ence][14] by the Gentlemen preceding the Printed Characters [,][14] as a Farce to the "Revenge ["][14] April: 1785 With Great Applause Nicho' Brown".

---

[10]Willard, p. 15.

[11]Willard, p. 10.

[12]Bronson, p. 105.

[13]Two years before, Dennis Ryan's company had presented the *Cheats of Scapin* in far more liberal New York, on June 28, 1783, as an afterpiece to Home's *Fatal Discovery*. (Odell, pp. 226-227)

[14]These characters have been cut away by the bookbinder.

This must have been a public performance, because the whole student body, which in 1785 consisted of thirty-seven young men, eight of whom took part in the farce, hardly furnished a sufficient audience. Nicholas Brown, who took the part of Octavian and signed himself as the secretary, either of the society or the enterprise, wrote "preceding the Printed Characters" on page 208 the names of the cast. When after hard wear the book was rebound, the binder trimmed the edges so well that only the last letters of these names remain; but I have completed the list by consulting the class lists between 1786 and 1788. As there were only thirty-seven undergraduates, there can be virtually no doubt as to the accuracy of the following cast:

MEN

[Woo]ds	Thrifty
[Car]ter	Gripe
[Br]own	Octavian
[Ann]an	Leander
[At]well	Scapin
[Kol]lock	Shift
[Blacki]nton	Sly

WOMEN

[Cro]uch	Lucia
[Bo]wen	Clara
Jabez	

Under this cast we find the following inscription:

"A true copy Witness Nicholas Brown, Sec." The edge of the page reveals another phrase, "Acted in the Hall. ."; but the rest of the sentence has been cut away.

All but three in this list were in the class of 1786, the first class to graduate after the Revolution. Crouch was in the class of 1787, while Atwell and Blackinton were in the class of 1788. Our only uncertainty concerns the Annan

who played Leander, since there were two Annans in the class of 1786. There is also the name Shaw written opposite the name of Scapin on page 208; and we cannot determine whether this was a reference to Jahaziah Shaw in the class of 1792, or to John Shaw in the class of 1805. The name would seem to indicate that this Shaw was a substitute for the part.

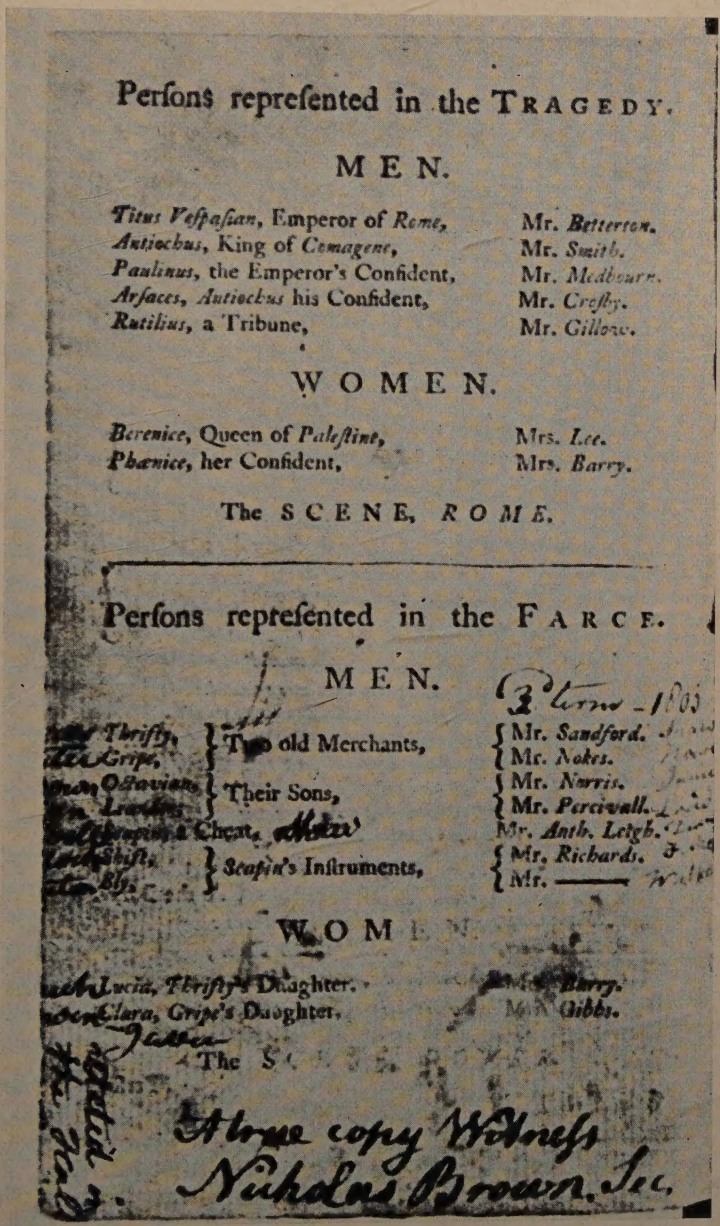
Seven years later, in 1792, liberal Providence was in favor of repealing the laws against the drama. The successful *Cheats of Scapin* was evidently revived; for opposite the first appearance of each character in the text is written, in a hand not Nicholas Brown's, the name of a student in the class of 1792. We do not know just when the play was given, but it must have been performed before the commencement in September, 1792. If it were a senior play, as the cast might indicate, it must have been given between 1791 and 1792. The names appear in the following order:[15]

Peter Alden	Octavian
Paraclite Tew	Shift
Jahaziah Sha[w][16]	Scapin
R[ichard][17] Stites	Clara
Eben[ezer][17] Withingto[n][16]	Thrifty
N[athaniel][17] Hazzard[18]	Gripe
[Bildad][17] Barney	Leander

When the class graduated, Thomas C. Hazard, another senior, delivered an "Oration on the Theatre."

So encouraging now was the outlook for drama in Providence that Joseph Harper, arrested in Boston for giving plays, decided to come to the town in 1792. Here he arrived late in December, obviously some months after this

[15]No names appear beside the parts of Sly and Lucia.
[16]These letters have been cut away.
[17]I have completed the names from the 1792 class list.
[18]This name has only one "z" in the catalogue.



Persons represented in the TRAGEDY.

MEN.

Titus Veſpaſian, Emperor of *Rome*,	Mr. *Betterton*.
Antiochus, King of *Comagene*,	Mr. *Smith*.
Paulinus, the Emperor's Confident,	Mr. *Medbourn*.
Arſaces, *Antiochus* his Confident,	Mr. *Creſſy*.
Rutilius, a Tribune,	Mr. *Gillow*.

WOMEN.

Berenice, Queen of *Paleſtine*,	Mrs. *Lee*.
Phœnice, her Confident,	Mrs. *Barry*.

The SCENE, *ROME*.

Persons represented in the FARCE.

MEN.

Thrifty, Gripe, — Two old Merchants,	Mr. *Sandford*. Mr. *Nokes*.
Octavian, Lovelace, — Their Sons,	Mr. *Norris*. Mr. *Percivall*.
Cheat,	Mr. *Anth. Leigh*.
Shift, Bly, — Scapin's Inſtruments,	Mr. *Richards*. Mr. ———

WOMEN.

Lucia, Thrifty's Daughter,	Mrs. *Barry*.
Clara, Gripe's Daughter,	Mrs. *Gibbs*.

The S

A true copy Witness Nicholas Brown. Jun.

"When after hard wear the book was rebound, the binder trimmed the edges so well that only the last letters of these names remain . . ."

Page 208, Vol. I, *Works of Mr. Thomas Otway*, (London, 1757) *in the John Hay Library, Brown University*

second college performance of Otway's *Cheats of Scapin.* Harper was permitted to present dramas at the Court House, on condition that the receipts for every fifth night should be turned over to the town treasury.[19] Three years later, in 1795, many prominent citizens came together to make plans for the building of a real theatre. John Brown gave the lot at the corner of Westminster and Mathewson streets, where the Grace Church now stands, and he also subscribed for seven shares of stock.[20]

In 1803, during the third term, there was another performance of the *Cheats of Scapin.* The actors in this production belonged to the class of 1805. Their names are also listed on page 208 of the first volume of Otway's works:[21]

[22][John] Shaw	Thrifty
[John] Howe	Gripe
[Benjamin] James	Octavian
[Samuel P.] Loud	Leander
[Samuel] Deane	Scapin
[Philip M.] Fiske[23]	Shift
[Bolling M.] Walker	Sly

Under the circumstances, of course, audiences were not to be shocked; and the text is freely expurgated with pen marks, even to such terms as "damme", "damnably", "a pox on him", as well as the immodest reference to babies contained in the phrase, "after the getting of 'em". The true and eternal undergraduate is represented in other

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[19]Willard, p. 21.

[20]Willard, p. 25.

[21]We do not know who took the parts of Lucia and Clara.

[22]I have supplied the first names of the performers from the 1805 class list.

[23]This Fiske belongs to the class of 1803. There was a Fisk, (no final "e") in the class of 1805, but the handwriting in the Otway shows a final "e".

inscriptions, such as, "A. Draper wrote this, 1767". One student wrote at the end of Act III of *Friendship in Fashion*, one of Otway's indecent comedies: "Mr. Otway you are too bad you raise my animal vigour to an high pitch." He comments again after Goodvile's declaration to "Love where I please": "Not as you knows off." On another page, in regard to the ridiculous scene in the *Soldier's Fortune*, where Davy Dunce is persuaded that Beaugard is a ghost, one student wrote: "Taken from Shakespeare." Another was contemptuous enough to comment: "A damn'd foolish thought." One student wrote after the *Atheist:* "Your end is better than your beginning, Otway." Another says in the volume which contains the comedies: "Each of these plays is spoiled at both ends and in the middle." Still another, perhaps dissatisfied with the remarks, added a cryptogram in pencil: "B not yy $\frac{\text{nor}}{\text{wise}}$ for if you B you c how A fool you B." At the end of *Alcibiades* another reader deplores the art of Otway in this comment: "How much more interesting this play had been if truth had guided the pen of the author, if he had adhered to historical facts."

Someone jotted the name of Mason Shaw opposite the name of despicable Antonio in the notorious comic scene in *Venice Preserved*, either as an undergraduate compliment, or possibly to indicate the actor of the part. Indeed, this play has several stage directions in the text, but not enough to indicate that it was ever presented.

One of my most interesting discoveries in Volume III of the set is a group of comments in shorthand. I have identified the system as that of John Byron's from a copy of his *Universal English Shorthand* (Manchester, 1767), but I have not transcribed the notes with any degree of success. This copy of Byrom's shorthand book is also in the John Hay library.

The Samuel Sewall School Land and the Kingston Academy

(Concluded)

William Davis Miller

It was shortly after the year 1819, when the Sewall School was moved from Tower Hill, that several of the leading men of Little Rest purchased an eighth of an acre of land situated on the easterly side of the North Road of that village and built thereupon a school house for the use of the school. On March 13, 1823, these same men, "to aid in raising the present school into an academy, to be called the Pettasquamscutt Academy" agreed to give this property to the academy "whenever such academy shall be incorporated."[1]

This was accomplished at the May Session of the General Assembly in the same year and a charter was granted providing that Oliver Brown, Elisha R. Potter, James Helme, Robert F. Noyes, Thomas R. Wells, Thomas G. Taylor, Wilkins Updike, John T. Nicholls and William P. Newall . . . hereby are made and constitute a body politic and corporate . . . by the name and style of the Trustees of the Pettasquamscutt Academy for the purpose . . . of erecting said school now called the Pettasquamscutt School into an Academy."[2] It is to be noted that in the charter there was nothing expressed or implied that the avails of the Sewall land were to be used for this academy. It is evident that

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[1]Original in the Potter Papers.

[2]From the *Record Book of the Kingston Academy*. From the collection of the late Judge Elisha R. Potter. E. R. Potter, Sr., was the first president of the Trustees and his son, Judge Potter, later acted as Secretary and was also head of the Classical Department.

the avails were intended to continue as being part of the income of the new academy and therefore, to increase them and to place the matter on a better foundation the Trustees of the academy petitioned the General Assembly that the land be sold and the sums so received be placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the Academy. The petition sets forth "that after the decease of both the aforesaid grantors, viz. on the 13 Nov. 1736, the heirs at law of the aforesaid John Walley transferred by their deed of that date, all their right, title, interest and trust . . . to Samuel Sewall, Esq. son of the original grantors . . . that the said Samuel Sewall about 48 years since, viz. in the year 1775, left the United States and went to foreign parts . . . "[3] It is therefore on this ground that the Trustees of the Academy base their claim to the avails and to the right to request the sale of the land. The petition further states that the Minister of the Third Church and the Town Treasurer of Boston were still active in the appointment of the teacher for the school.

The Assembly referred this petition to a special committee, and upon its favorable report, the Act permitting the sale of the lands was passed. The land was sold in April, 1825, and the report made two months later showed a balance of $4,268 which was invested, as provided in the act, and turned over to the Treasurer of the Academy.[4]

Subsequently there was adverse criticism of this action of the transfer of the funds into the hands of the Trustees, and in 1836 the Trustees felt themselves called upon to publish a defensive statement.[5] This statement sets forth that "the power of the Legislature to place the funds in

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[3] *A Statement of Facts in relation to the funds of the Kingston Academy*, Providence, 1836.

[4] Original statements in the Potter Papers and entered in the *Record Book*.

[5] See Note 3.

the hands of the present Trustees, we believe has never been disputed. . . . The original Trustees or their heirs, having neglected the trust, and there being no person empowered to manage the land or to procure a schoolmaster, it became necessary that the new Trustees should be appointed for that purpose." They further state that for several years a certain amount was set aside for charity scholars and that scholars from the Pettasquamscutt Purchase received special attention and were not in any way prejudiced by the many scholars received from without the Purchase. In ending the Trustees "challange the severest scrutiny into their conduct, and they are not only ready but anxious for an investigation of the whole subject by impartial judges and a legitimate tribunal."

In the meantime the Academy was steadily growing and the minutes in the old record book are an interesting commentary on its progress and subsequent decline:

"August 23, 1825 . . . Voted That Asa Potter be employed for the ensuing year, as Preceptor, of the Academy . . . and that he receive toward his compensation one hundred and fifty dollars from the avails of the funds of the Academy.

September 1, 1825 Voted That the Treasurer be instructed and authorized to . . . recast the Academy bell. . . .

By Act of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island etc holden at Newport, in May, 1826, the name Kingston was substituted for Pettiquamscut in the name of the Academy. . . .

August 30, 1826 engaged Mr. Elisha Atkins as Preceptor. . . . stipulating to give him for his services one hundred & fifty dollars from the Treasury beside the Tuition of the scholars.

March 26, 1829 it was proposed to divide the Academy into two departments, one to be kept by the Preceptor and limited principally to the Learned Languages and the higher branches of an English Education; the other for

the more common branches of English to be kept by an Assistant. . . . . .

July 14, 1830 Voted that a morning recitation in the Academy be recommended to the Instructors. . .

May 27 1831 Voted, that the Treasurer be authorized to provide blinds for the South and East windows of the Academy. . . . .[6]

Voted, that the Trustees attend all public examinations of the Academy, or in default thereof pay to the Treasurer for each absence one dollar. . . . .

December 15, 1831 . . . Mr. William Gammell of Newport was engaged (as principle) . . . .[7]

March 12 1832 Voted, That the Treasurer be authorized . . . to have printed 400 copies of the Catalogue of the Trustees, Instructors & Students of the Academy from A. D. 1819 to the Term ending April 26, A.D. 1832. . . .[8]

April 9. 1832 Voted that Elisha R. Potter, Jr. be engaged as Instructor in the Latin School Mr Gammell wishing to resign.

June 25, 1832 That the Treasurer be . . . authorized to hire . . . four hundred dollars.for the purpose of enlarging the Acad'y. . . . .

April 3 1834 Voted that the tuition fee in the higher branches of the Mathematics shall hereafter be four dollars.

January 7, 1836 Voted that the Standing Committee be authorized to take measures for the establishment of a female school as a branch of the Academy . . .

March 17, 1836 Voted that the charges for instruction in the different branches of knowledge taught in the Academy be as follows; viz; for the common English studies to those belonging to Pettiquamscut Purchase, two dollars;

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[6]This Academy building was burned to the ground in 1882.

[7]Later professor at Brown University.

[8]This catalogue was reprinted in 1901.

for *do* to scholars from out of the Purchase; three dollars: for surveying, navigation and the higher branches of mathematics; four dollars; for the Latin and Greek languages, five dollars, pr quarter.

Voted, that the President sign and forward to the Minister of the Third Church in Boston and the Treasurer of said City a letter explaining the present situation and circumstances of the Academy. . . .

November 18, 1843 Voted that the Lower room of the Academy be leased to the Trustees of the Sewal Fund for a rent of $25 per annum.

Under the entry of July 23 1844 the President is authorized to lease the Academy building and grounds to School District No. 3 for a period of twenty years with the provisions that "they permit the Sewal Trustees to keep their school therein without any charge therefor for rent upon the scholars from within the District . . ." This is the last entry in the record book pertaining to the Academy relative to its connection to the Sewall Fund.

It has already been noted that there was criticism of the Academy Trustees regarding their use of the Sewall Fund; a criticism so serious that it had called forth a detailed statement of justification on their part. The matter was evidently carried still farther and a correspondence with the Minister of the Third Church and the Treasurer of Boston is recorded. The end of this situation came in 1840 at the May term of the Supreme Court when a decree was entered prescribing the manner in which the Sewall Fund should be employed by the Trustees and, shortly afterwards, a further decree removed the fund from the Trustees and placed it in the hands of others. For a while the Academy and the Sewal Fund Trustees occupied the same building, as is shown by the entry of November 18, 1843, but friction was apparent and, as result, the Academy built a new building. On August 31, 1853 the new school, known as the Kingston Seminary, was dedicated "in the

presence of a large and highly respectable audience." This school was at first for both boys and girls but two years later it was changed to the Kingston Female Seminary, encountered difficulties and in 1861 the building was mortgaged and two years later, sold.[9]

Before concluding, it is of interest to examine the catalogue issued by the Academy under the authorization of March 12 1832. The Teachers of the Classical Department were, from time to time, Nathaniel Helme, Hinman B. Hoyt, William G. Hammond, Asa Potter, William Gragg, Elisha Atkins, Henry M. Davis, William Gammell and Elisha R. Potter, Jr. Christopher Comstock would appear to have remained the head of the English Department throughout. That the list of scholars contained the names of many men well known in the State and also those of other States and foreign countries is shown from the following extract from the catalogue:

Henry M. Aborn, Warwick; Benjamin B. Adams, Providence; Albert Babcock, Westerly; Thomas S. Bozman, West Indies; Stephen Branch, Providence; Henry Bull, Newport; William Bule, Matanzas, Cuba; Antonio Ramos Silveira Coutinho, Fayal, Azores,[10] Joseph Rodriquez y Duval, Minorca, Medit'n; Charles H. D'Wolf, Newport; Christopher Green, Powtowomut; William Harris, Cranston; Mark Anthony D'Wolf Howe, Bristol; William D. Davis, N. Kingstown; Benj. P. Ravenal, Newport; Alexander G. Coffin, Nantucket, Mass.; Henry Hoppin, Jr., Providence; Henry Lippitt, Providence; Francis Grinnell, New Bedford, Mass.; Charles Sabin,

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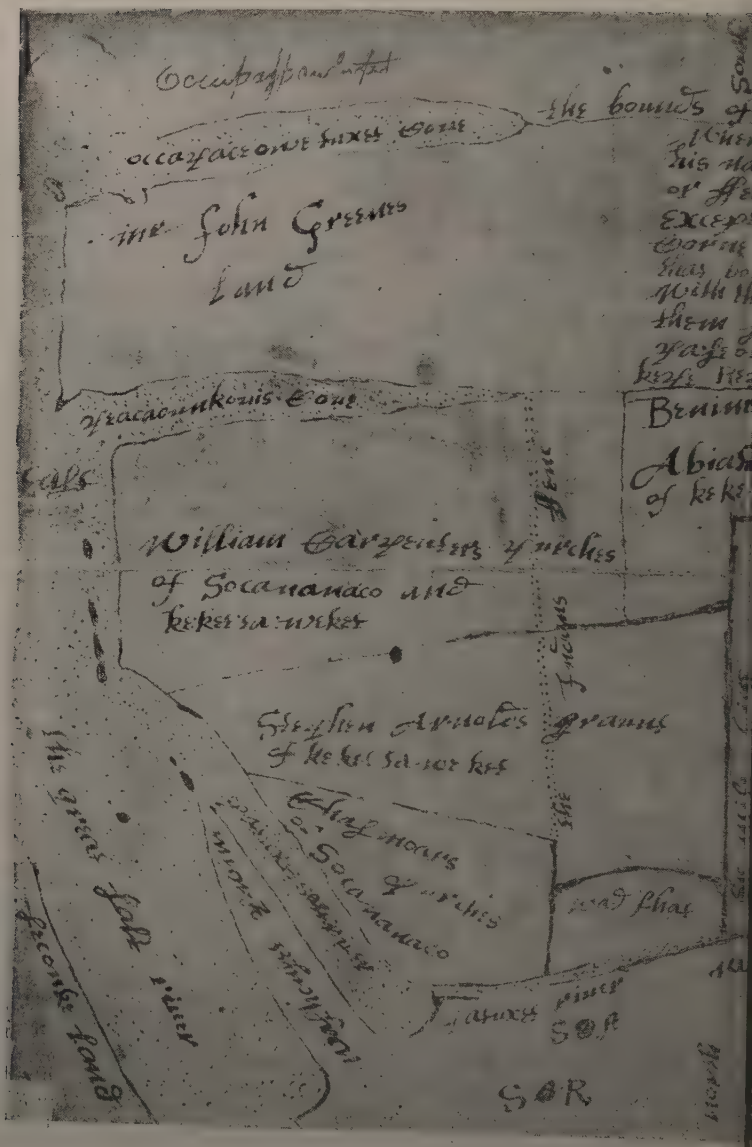
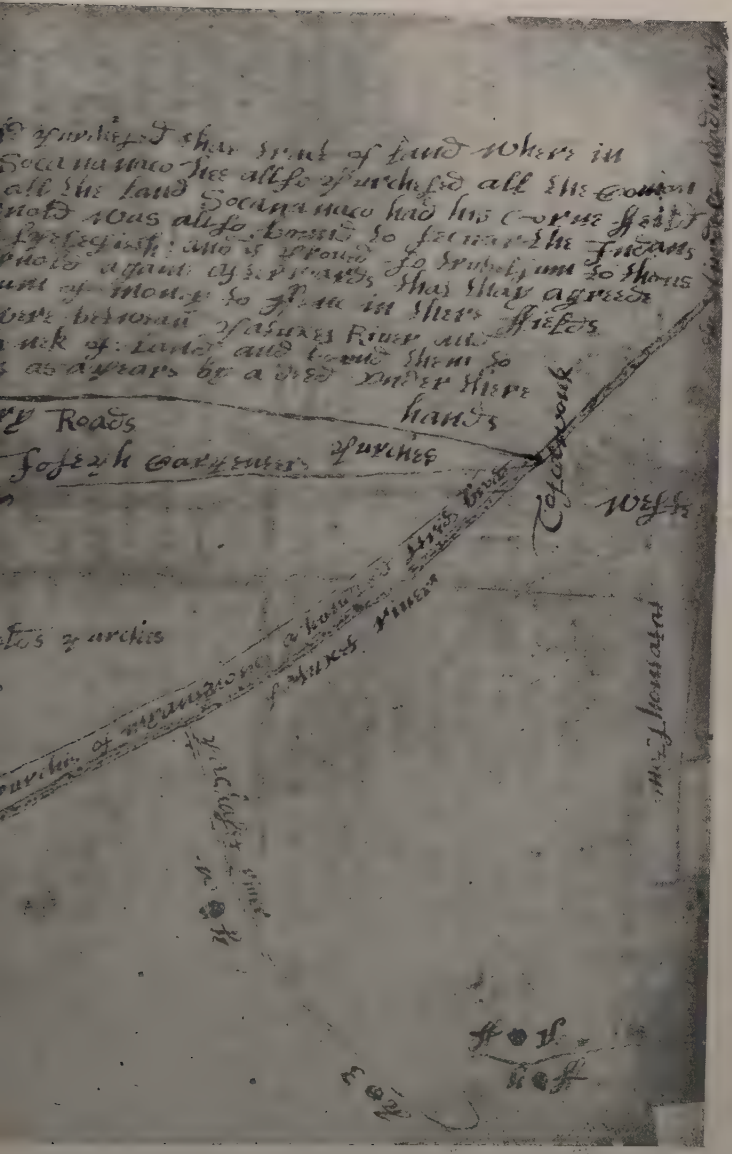
[9]*State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century*, Edward Field ed., 1902. Vol. II, p. 361, and also *Record Book of the Kingston Academy*.

[10]With reference to pupils from foreign countries it is interesting to note an entry in the minutes of the *Records of the Kingston Seminary:* "It was adopted as a rule that hereafter pupils from abroad will be required to present testimonials of good moral character."



Map showing the land and houses at Pawtuxet



he Society's library. (R. I. H. S. M. 918.)

Providence; John H. Wells, Kingston and Charles A. Scott, Charleston, S. C.

Tuition fees have been noted in the minutes of the meeting, but there are other items of expense which are of comparative interest to-day as; "The price of board including washing, in the family of the English Instructor,[11] or in other private families is $1.50 per week." This was later increased by twenty-five cents. "A trifling sum" was also added to this in winter for light and fuel. Regarding discipline the following was promulgated: "It is expected that the pupils be accountable to the Instructors for all improprieties of conduct—that they attend regularly the public worship of the sabbath, and on all occasions exhibit a fair moral character—that they always ask permission of the Instructors for absence from town, from church, or from the stated exercises of the Academy. The Instructors will always aim to exercise over their pupils a paternal government, and to form within them decidedly moral and useful characters."

NOTES

The Texas Monthly, for November, 1929, contains an article on the origin of banking in Texas, in which there are many references to Samuel May Williams, one of the early Texas bankers. He was born in Providence, R. I., Oct. 4, 1795, and was the son of Howell Williams.

The Antiquarian, for January, 1930, contains an illustrated account of a Goddard tea-table by Norman M. Isham.

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[11]The house of Christopher Comstock, the English Instructor, was situated next to the Academy on the North. The house still stands and is to this day known as the *Comstock House*. Certain details of its arrangement still evidence its occupancy by the pupils.

The following persons have been admitted to membership in the Society:

Mr. Josiah M. Barney
Mrs. Herbert G. Beede
Mr. Thomas B. Card
Miss Eunice W. Dexter
Mrs. Harriet M. F. Dixon
Hon. Peter G. Gerry
Miss Maude E. Armstrong
Gen. John J. Richards
Miss Lucy T. Aldrich
Mr. Thomas L. Pierce
Mrs. Augustus A. Wolf
Mrs. F. H. Peckham
Mrs. R. C. Davis
Miss Esther F. Greene
Dr. Katherine F. Peckham
Dr. Arthur M. Potter
Mr. Charles H. Welling
Miss Helen G. Calder
Mr. Joseph G. Henshaw
Miss Mary G. Henshaw
Mrs. Edward H. Weeks
Mr. Edward H. Weeks
Mr. Percy J. Wilson
Mr. William L. Joyce
Dr. Lewis H. Kalloch
Mrs. C. K. Rathbone
Miss Mary A. Harris
Mrs. G. Richmond Parsons
Mr. Kenneth Shaw Safe
Mr. Harry V. Mayo
Mr. Thomas A. Jenckes
Mr. Harry B. Sherman
Benjamin T. Tefft, M.D.
Mrs. William P. Buffum
Mr. Leonard M. Robinson
Mr. David Duncan
Mr. Henry A. Street
Frank A. Cummings, M.D.
Mr. Walter H. Stearns
Mrs. Eugene P. King
Mrs. Eugene S. Graves
Mr. William A. Spicer
Mrs. Frank W. Tillinghast
Joseph Smith, M.D.
Mrs. Wm. L. Hodgman
Mrs. Gorton T. Lippitt

Mr. Victor Wilbour has presented to the Society some old Rhode Island books.

Account Books Kept by Benjamin Franklin, Ledger "D," 1739-1749, with notes by George Simpson Eddy was printed in New York, in 1929. It contains Benjamin Franklin's business account with his sister-in-law, Ann Franklin, the Newport printer, from 1740 to 1745, and his account with his nephew James Franklin of Newport, from 1748 to 1757. Ann Franklin bought paper, ink and books of Benjamin Franklin. Apparently she acted as a bookseller as well as a printer. It is interesting to note that

in the year 1740, in which she published an almanac, she bought only 300 almanacs from Benjamin, but that in the years in which she did not publish an almanac her purchases of Benjamin's almanacs ran from 600 to 1100 a year. James Franklin bought mostly paper from his uncle. Benjamin was paid by Ann Franklin in rum and by James Franklin in sugar.

A detailed and exhaustive genealogical account of the Bordens of Headcorn, in Kent, the ancestors of the Bordens of Rhode Island, by G. Andrews Moriarty, F. S. A., appears in the January and April, 1930, issues of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*.

The oration delivered by Professor B. L. Henin on July 14, 1928, at the dedication of the monument to commemorate the landing of the French troops at Newport, has been reprinted as a pamphet of twelve pages.

The Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society for January, 1930, contains an account of the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House by Mrs. R. Sherman Elliott and also an account of Ida Lewis' boat.

Mr. Richard Ward Greene Welling has presented to the Society a large photograph of the Greene Homestead at Potowomut, R. I., which was the birthplace of General Nathanael Greene. Chief Justice Richard Ward Greene is seated in the foreground. A reproduction of this view of this historic house appears on page 611, of volume 3, of Edward Field's *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*.

Portraits of Governor James Fenner and his wife, which were painted by Francis Alexander, have been presented to the Society by Mr. Henry D. Sharpe. Illustrations of these portraits appeared in *The Evening Bulletin* of January 14, and *The Providence Sunday Journal*, of January 19. Governor Fenner was the first President of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

The *Antiquarian* for February, contains illustrations of the silver punch strainer of Jabez Bowen of Providence, dated 1766, and of a silver tankard made by Samuel Vernon of Newport.

A Providence Episode in the Irish Literary Renaissance by Horace Reynolds has been issued by the Study Hill Club.

The Providence World War Memorial by Henry T. Samson contains a list of the Providence soldiers and sailors who died in the World War.

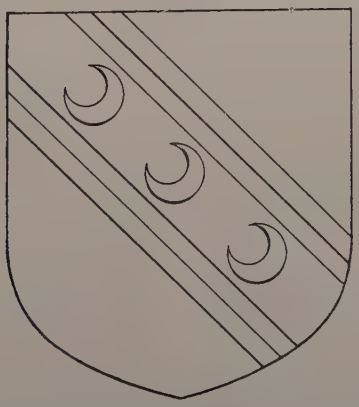
Unafraid. A Life of Anne Hutchinson by Winnifred King Rugg has just been published by Houghton, Mifflin Co.

Unger Not Alnger

A more searching study of the old handwriting discloses the fact that the name given on page 11, of volume 23, of the *R. I. H. S. Collections* as Johann Jeremias Alnger should have been given as Johann Jeremias Unger.

HERALDIC NOTES

Dyer



In the *R. I. H. S. Collections* for April, 1928, (vol. xxi, p. 76) there is the illustration of a coat-of-arms "On a bend

cottised three crescents." Two uses of this coat are recorded, one in Portsmouth, R. I., in 1660, and the other in Boston, Mass., in 1713. Mr. William Allan Dyer has recently discovered a third use of these arms in America. In the Massachusetts Archives (vol. 129, p. 163) there is a power of attorney executed on August 20, 1688, by Mary Dyer of Sussex in Pennsylvania, widow of William Dyer, in favor of her son William Dyer. Mary Dyer signed and sealed this document in the presence of John Redwood and Samuel Atkins and used an armorial seal "On a bend cottised three crescents, impaling a fess dancetty between three mullets" with the crest "An arm embowed holding a drawn sword." It is indeed significant that another use of these arms by a member of the Dyer family has been discovered. The identity of William Dyer of Sussex has been established, as Major William Dyer, son of William Dyer, one of the founders of Newport.

The Stephen Hopkins House

The house of Governor Stephen Hopkins stood originally on South Main Street at the corner of the present Hopkins Street. Governor Hopkins bought the lot of John Field in 1743. There was then a house upon it. This was apparently used in the ell of a new dwelling which Hopkins built facing South Main Street on the front of the lot. For the frames of these two parts of the house are entirely independent and the second floors are not at the same level.

In 1809, the land was acquired by Brown and Ives and the house was moved to a lot on Hopkins Street directly east of the corner lot.

In 1927, the Providence County Court House Commission, carrying out the directions of the General Assembly, set the house in its present position.

The front doorway and door, some of the window

frames and all but one of the sash are new. The back door is a copy of the old one. The underpinning and the steps are, of course, modern. The roof has been shingled, but the chimneys are old.

The entry leads across the front block of the house. On the right of it is the door to the parlor, on the left that to the north room so called from its old position as the house stood on South Main Street.

The stairs are original. They are of maple and two or three of the risers have the "curly" grain. One baluster and two drops had to be replaced. The plastering, which was cracked and soiled, has been mended and surfaced with Swedish putty. The floor boards are original. They have been slightly stained and finished.

In the parlor and the north room the mantels are old. So are the doors. The parlor mantel is excellent, with a fine open cupboard in the overmantel. There was no shelf on the mantel, but the cupboard was provided with three, and was finished with a beautiful carved shell at the top. The floors in these rooms are original also, they are those on which walked Hopkins and Washington.

There are paneled overdoors in the parlor.

In the keeping room, part of the ell which may once have been John Field's house, the finish is very simple. Here the floor is new as it is in the "bedroom below," on the east side of the house. The corner cupboard is new, built to hold china which was meant for use and not for exhibition. In the passage between the keeping room and the parlor is the window with its original sash.

In the second story the parlor chamber, that is the room over the parlor, has an interesting paneled overmantel and the original floor. This was Washington's room.

The north chamber, a small room over the north room below, has a low mantel. The floor here is old.

At the end of the ell the two chambers were made, after

Hopkins' time, out of the original kitchen chamber, which was really nothing more than a garret.

The furniture in the house represents, except for the chair, now at Brown University, which stood in the entry, and the clock and desk which were in the parlor, the furniture which belonged to Governor Hopkins at his death as it is set forth in the inventory now on record at the City Hall. As some pieces which we should naturally expect to find are not recorded, it is possible that they had been given to Ruth, his daughter-in-law, or to Rufus, his son, before Governor Hopkins' death.

The house is open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from two to five in the afternoon.

N. M. I.

Dance Regulations of 1747

Among the Freebody Papers, which were recently presented to the Society by Miss Elizabeth Norton, are several manuscripts relating to the dances held in Newport from 1747 to 1751. One of these papers* is as follows:

Rules for the Regulation of the Assembly Commenced Octbr 28th: 1747 in Newport.

1st: Every member at the time of Subscription shall pay the Steward Four Pounds, To defray the Charges of the First and Second Evenings.

2nd: That on the first Night of our Meeting as well as at other times, Every Member shall pay Fourty Shillings to the Steward, that he may always have a Sufficient Stock in advance to defray the Expence of the two Subsequent Evenings.

3rd: That a Steward or Master of the Ceremony shall be chosen from Among the Subscribers, who shall Continue in office A Fortnight or two Evenings, At the

*R. I. H. S. M. S. XI, 99.

Expiration of which time he shall appoint another of the Subscribers to Succeed him To Whom he shall give an exact account of the Money Received and disbursed; in a regular book to be open to the Inspection of all the Members, And in which shall be a Copy of these Rules and orders to be kept for that purpose.

4th: The Steward shall be obliged to Nominate a person to Succeed him who has not been before Appointed; that each Gentleman may discharge the office in his turn, after which there shall be a Constant and regular Succession as they were at first Appointed.

5th: No Member if he bee in Town and in Health shall be absent from the Assembly on the penalty of three Pounds To be paid to the Steward who shall be Accomptable.

6th: If any member shall upon his Word of Honour declare that to his certain knowledge any Absent Member was in Other Company of an Assembly Evening, So as to Neglect coming (unless upon some Speciall Occasion, his being with Strangers not to be Allowed a Sufficient Excuse.) Such Absent Member shall then not be excused his Fine, Or if he is tardy, he shall be fined at the discretion of the Steward, Who shall give him Notice of it.

7th: That the Steward shall be particularly careful that the expence of one Night do not exceed the money Subscribed, Which if he do shall be at his own loss, but if the expence do not ballance the Subscription he shall be Accomptable To his Successor for the Money not Expended.

8th: At such times as the Fines and advanced Money shall be sufficient for defraying the Expences of the next Evening (Exclusive of the Advanced Subscription) the Members shall be Excused from paying any thing.

9th: The Steward shall provide a proper Person to deal out the Tea, Coffee, Wine etc: Prepared for the Accommodation of the Company.

10th: Any member Gentleman or Lady shall be at liberty to introduce any Stranger whom they shall Judge proper and Agreable To the Company.

11th: Every member at the time of Subscribing shall be presented with a list of Such Ladies, as are to have a general Invitation To each of whom will be given a Ticket for their Constant Admittance.

12th: The Assembly shall begin at Six in the Evening and break up at Twelve, and no Member shall take its amiss of the Master of the Ceremonies when he insists upon it.

13th: No new member to be Admited but such as shall be approved off by the Majority of the Subscribers Present at the Assembly when he shall be proposed, (the Steward to have the Casting Vote.)

14th: For the sake of keeping up the decorum and Regularity of this Assembly, if any member uses or takes any Indecent Liberty or Familiarity with any of the Ladies, Such Member shall pay Five Pounds for the first Offence, and for the Second shall be, by the Steward Publicly Expelled the Assembly.

15th: If any Married Gentleman has an Inclination of coming to the Assembly with his Lady, Such Gentleman shall be Admitted (but not to Subscribe) upon the same footing as any of the others members, i. e. (Paying an Equal Proportion of the Expence of the Evening.)

16th: With respect to Dancing of Minuets, the Gentlemen shall dance with such Ladies As the Master of the Ceremonies shall Appoint And of Sett or Cuntrey dances, the usual Method of drawing numbers Shall be Observed (the first Numbers to have the

Precedency) with this priviledge to the master of the Ceremonies that he shall always chuse his own Partner and open the Ball.

Appended to these rules of 1747 is a list of the ladies who were invited to attend the Assemblies in accordance with rule No. 11. Merely the initial and surname of each lady is given, but in most cases, it is possible to identify the lady from this brief record.[1]

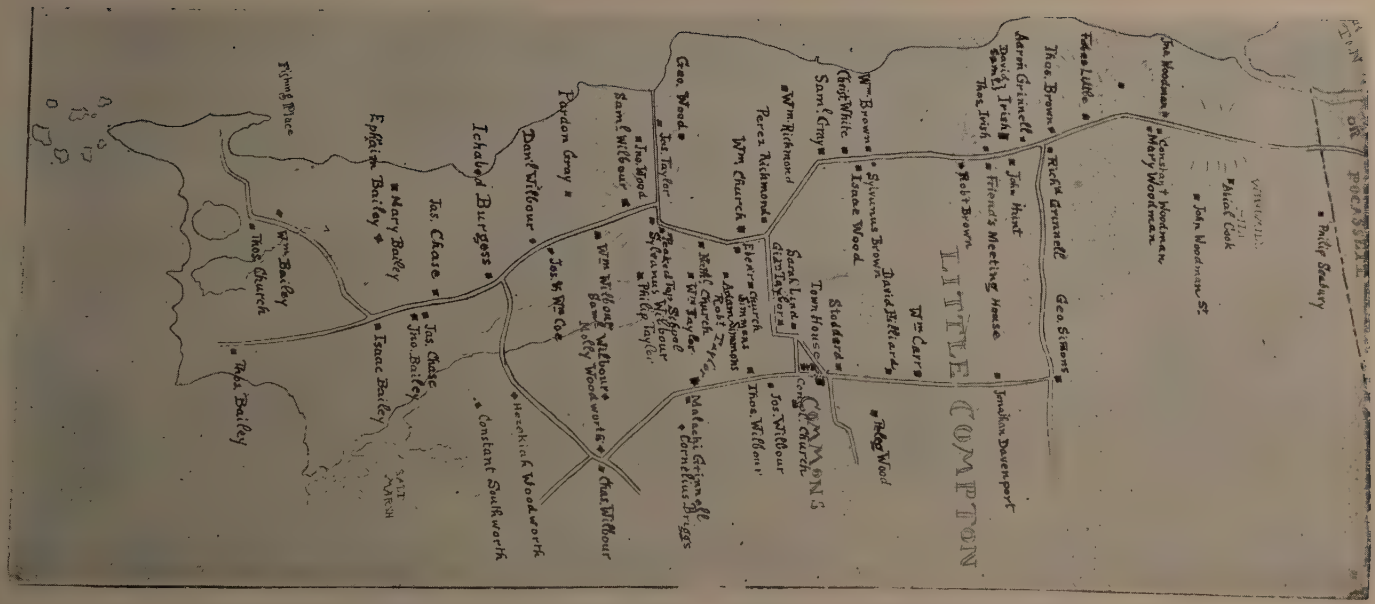
A list of the Ladies:

Miss. S. Ayrault
I. Ayrault
R. Allen
Miss. P. Brenton
E. Brenton
F. Brenton
M. Brown
E. Brown
Miss. E. Cole
A. Cole
Miss C. Coddington
J. Coddington
C. Coddington
Miss. E. Cranston
Miss. E. Freebody
Miss. E. Hatch
I. Hatch
E. Harwood
I. Harwood
A. Haszard
P. Haszard
Miss. A. Mallbone
M. Mallbone
M. Mumford
E. Mumford
Miss. E. Phillips
Miss. R. Scott
Miss. Thurston
Miss. M. Updike
Miss. H. Ward
M. Ward
R. Wanton

The list of gentlemen who gave the dances:

Godfrey Malbone
John Cole
Edward Cole
Joseph Whipple
Jonathan Thurston
George Gardner
Lod. Updike
Wm. Vernon
Philip Wilkinson
Jerh. Brown
Samuel Freebody
Joseph Philips
Robert Stoddard

[1]An extensive account of these papers was printed in the *Providence Sunday Journal* for October 22, 1929.



MAP OF LITTLE COMPTON, SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE HOUSES ABOUT 1774.

The original manuscript, which was drawn in the late nineteenth century, bears the title, "Draught of ye Great Road of ye Town of Little Compton, A. D. 1774."

Communicated by Benjamin F. Wilbour of Little Compton

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME ACCOUNT FOR YEAR 1929

Receipts

Annual Dues	$2,320.00
Dividends and Interest	5,344.27
Rental of Rooms	187.00
State Appropriation	1,500.00
	$9,351.27

Expenditures

Binding	$ 187.75
Books	693.41
Electric Light and Gas	39.88
Exhibitions	99.91
Expenses	136.77
Grounds and Building	391.30
Heating	700.00
Newspaper Account	105.05
Publication	889.58
Salaries	5,210.00
Supplies	308.62
Telephone	70.30
Water	8.00
Insurance	225.00
	$9,065.57
Surplus Income Account	285.70
	$9,351.27

STATEMENT OF CONDITION, DECEMBER 31, 1929

Assets

Grounds and Building			$ 25,000.00
Investments:			
	Bonds		
$5,000	New York Edison Co., 6½s, 1941	$5,447.85	
4,000	Cedars Rapids Mfg. & Power Co., 5s 1953	3,228.88	
3,000	Central Mfg. District	3,000.00	
3,000	Cleveland Elec. Illuminating Co., 5s, 1939	2,565.42	
1,000	Commonwealth Edison Co., 5s, 1943	965.25	
4,000	Government of Dominion of Canada, 5s, 1952	4,003.91	
1,000	Western Electric Co., 5s, 1944	998.17	
300	United Electric Rys. Co., Prior Lien, 4s, 1946	231.27	
4,000	61 Broadway Bldg., 1st Mtge., 5½s, 1950	4,000.00	
4,000	Minnesota Power & Light Co., 1st 5s, 1955	3,930.00	
4,000	Monongahela Valley Traction Co., 1st 5s, 1942	3,685.00	
2,000	Ohio Power Co., 1st & Ref. 5s, 1952	1,974.00	
2,000	Narragansett Co., 5s, 1957	1,980.00	
2,000	Shell Union Oil Corporation, 5s, 1947	1,979.00	
2,000	Koppers Gas & Coke Co., 5s, 1947	1,962.50	
1,000	Indianapolis Power & Light, 1st 5s, 1957	994.50	
	Stocks		
50 shs.	New York Central Railroad Co.	$3,355.22	
111 shs.	Pennsylvania Railroad Co.	6,934.97	
30 shs.	Lehigh Valley Railroad Co.	2,112.50	
7 shs.	Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Co.	235.39	
40 shs.	Milwaukee Elec. Ry. & Light Co., Pfd.	3,900.00	
64 shs.	American Tel. & Tel. Co.	7,046.23	
300 shs.	Providence Gas Co.	5,005.68	
15 shs.	Providence National Bank	1,800.00	
30 shs.	Merchants' National Bank Bldg.		
45 shs.	Blackstone Canal National Bank	1,050.00	
52 shs.	Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Co., Com.	6,247.85	
			78,633.59
Cash on hand			4,487.77
			$108,121.36

Liabilities

Equipment Fund		$ 25,000.00
Permanent Endowment Fund:		
Samuel M. Noyes	$ 12,000.00	
Henry J. Steere	10,000.00	
James H. Bugbee	6,000.00	
Charles H. Smith	5,000.00	
Charles W. Parsons	4,000.00	
William H. Potter	3,000.00	
Esek A. Jillson	2,000.00	
John Wilson Smith	1,000.00	
William G. Weld	1,000.00	
Charles C. Hoskins	1,000.00	
Charles H. Atwood	1,000.00	
		46,000.00
Publication Fund:		
Robert P. Brown	$ 2,000.00	
Ira B. Peck	1,000.00	
William Gammell	1,000.00	
Albert J. Jones	1,000.00	
William Ely	1,000.00	
Julia Bullock	500.00	
Charles H. Smith	100.00	
		6,600.00
George L. Shepley Fund		5,000.00
Life Membership		5,350.00
Franklin Lyceum Memorial Fund		734.52
Book Fund		3,012.41
Reserve Fund		1,044.27
Revolving Publication Fund		585.62
Surplus		12,470.71
Surplus Income Account		2,323.83
		$108,121.36

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1929

Receipts

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry., rights	$ 120.90
Pennsylvania Railroad, rights	51.06
American Telephone & Telegraph Co., rights	243.20
Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Co., rights	6.46
Life Membership	50.00
Reserve Fund	83.25
Revolving Publication Fund	395.00
	$ 949.87
Balance January 1, 1929	2,924.07
	$3,873.94

Payments

Indianapolis Power & Light, 1st, 5s, 1957	$ 994.50
Reserve Fund	4.50
Revolving Publication Fund	711.00
Balance December 31, 1929	2,163.94
	$3,873.94

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. Harrington, *Treasurer.*